stage and would need the approval of the competent authority before being operationalised.

For Paradip Port, presently the Cuttack—Paradip single rail line provides the sole link between Paradip Port and its hinterland. Work on doubling of this rail line in three reaches namely, (i) Nergundi — Cuttack Raghunathpur, (ii) Raghunathpur — Rahama & (iii) Rahama — Paradip Sections, has already ben taken up. The Railways has further taken up construction of the Daitari — Banspani rail line for transport of iron ore traffic at Paradip Port. Haridaspur — Paradip rail link which is a virtual extension of the Daitari Banspani new rail link which will connect the iron ore rich belt of Banspani and Daitari sectors to Paradip Port is also under consideration.

Completion of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

3205. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that only 35 per cent of construction work has been done on the Delhi - Gurgaon Expressway which was scheduled to be completed by March, 2005 with the result thousands of commuters have been facing lot of difficulties on account of traffic jam on that road;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that National Highway Authority of India is yet to acquire land from Defence Ministry and Airport Authority of India, without which the construction of the expressway cannot be completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the land is likely to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The construction work on Delhi — Gurgaon Expressway is in progress and 40% of the work has been completed. The work is slightly delayed, as the land at some locations were not handed over to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Recently, Ministry of Defence and Airport Authority of India

(AAI) have granted permission to the NHAI to work on their land. Hence, the progress of the work is likely to improve further. The Government of Haryana is also yet to transfer 21 acres of land to NHAI and the matter is being actively pursued with them.

Accidents on National Highways

3206. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 75,000 people are killed every year in road accidents, most of which occur on National Highways;

(b) how many people were killed in road accidents on National Highways during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of amount spent by Government for the safety of the lives of Highway users and the benefits accrued therefrom;

(d) the details of the facilities provided for the safety/benefit of the Highway users and the arrangements made to provide emergency medical aid to accident victims; and

(e) the steps taken to check accidents on national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, the details of persons killed in road accidents on all roads and National Highways during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002, on a state-wise basis is enclosed as statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Road Safety features are an integral part of road engineering projects. It is not possible to quantify the exact amount earmarked for road engineering related Road Safety activities on National Highways.

Besides, Central Government administers a number of road safety schemes which aim at inclucating an awareness about road safety amongst all road users including those on National Highways, refresher training of drivers of heavy vehicles in unorganized sector and to provide road safety equipments like crane and ambulances for clearing accident sites and